



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5572

February Session, 2004

* _____HB05572LM_____042304_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD POVERTY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) The Secretary of the
2 Office of Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of the
3 Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority
4 leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House of
5 Representatives, after consultation with the Commissioners of
6 Children and Families, Social Services, Correction, Mental Retardation,
7 Mental Health and Addiction Services, Transportation, Public Health,
8 Education, Economic and Community Development and Health Care
9 Access, the Labor Commissioner, the Chairman of the Board of
10 Governors for Higher Education, the Child Advocate, the chairperson
11 of the State Prevention Council, the chairperson of the Children's Trust
12 Fund and the executive director of the Commission on Children, shall
13 jointly develop a ten-year plan, to begin upon the effective date of this
14 section, to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the state
15 by fifty per cent.

16 (b) The plan shall contain: (1) An identification and analysis of the
17 root causes of child poverty in the state, (2) an analysis of the long-
18 term effects of child poverty on children, their families and their
19 communities, (3) an analysis of costs of child poverty to municipalities

20 and the state, (4) an inventory of state-wide public and private
21 programs that address each of the root causes identified pursuant to
22 subdivision (1) of this subsection, (5) the percentage of the target
23 population served by such programs and the current state funding
24 levels, if any, for such programs, (6) an identification and analysis of
25 any deficiencies or inefficiencies of such programs in addressing such
26 root causes of child poverty, and (7) procedures and priorities for
27 implementing strategies to achieve a fifty per cent reduction in child
28 poverty in the state by June 30, 2014. Such procedures and priorities
29 shall include, but not be limited to, (A) vocational training and
30 placement to promote career progression, for parents of children living
31 in poverty, (B) educational opportunities, including higher education
32 opportunities, and advancement for such parents and children
33 including, but not limited to, preliteracy, literacy and family literacy
34 programs, (C) housing for such parents and children, (D) day care and
35 after-school programs and mentoring programs for such children and
36 for single parents, (E) health care access for such parents and children
37 including access to mental health services and family planning, (F)
38 direct and early intervention programs, including substance abuse
39 treatment programs and services, for such parents and children, and
40 (G) accessible childhood nutrition programs.

41 (c) In developing the plan, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
42 Management, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of
43 the House of Representatives and the minority leaders of the Senate
44 and House of Representatives shall consult with experts and providers
45 of services to children living in poverty and parents of such children.
46 The secretary, president pro tempore and speaker of the House of
47 Representatives shall jointly hold a public hearing on the plan. After
48 the public hearing, the secretary, president pro tempore of the Senate
49 and speaker of the House of Representatives may make any
50 modifications that the secretary deems necessary based on testimony
51 given at the public hearing.

52 (d) Funds from private and public sources may be accepted and
53 utilized to develop and implement the plan and provisions of this

54 section.

55 (e) Not later than January 1, 2005, the Secretary of the Office of
 56 Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the
 57 speaker of the House of Representatives and the minority leaders of
 58 the Senate and House of Representatives shall jointly submit the plan,
 59 in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the General
 60 Assembly, along with any recommendations for legislation and
 61 funding necessary to implement the plan. The General Assembly shall
 62 vote on the plan not later than April 1, 2005. (1) If the General
 63 Assembly approves the plan, it shall be implemented. (2) If the General
 64 Assembly disapproves the plan, in whole or in part, the plan shall be
 65 deemed to be rejected and shall be returned to the secretary with
 66 recommendations for revisions. The secretary, the president pro
 67 tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives and
 68 the minority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives shall
 69 jointly make the recommended revisions to the plan and submit the
 70 revised plan to the General Assembly not later than May 15, 2005. Such
 71 revised plan shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

72 (f) On or before February 15, 2006, and annually thereafter, the
 73 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall report, in
 74 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
 75 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 76 matters relating to appropriations on the implementation of the plan
 77 and the extent to which state actions are in conformity with the plan.

78 (g) Not later than February 15, 2006, and February 15, 2008, the
 79 Governor shall submit budget adjustments for the second year of the
 80 biennium needed for purposes of the plan.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2004

KID

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP

APP *Joint Favorable*

LM *Joint Favorable*